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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

AID-05 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0669

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, MX

SUBJECT: ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS: SPEECH BY ILO DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS INAUGURAL PROGRAM

REF: MEXICO 9195

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 19 MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OFFICIALLY OPENED THE ELEVENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE ICFTU WITH BRIEF REMARKS OF WELCOME. THE INAUGURAL ACT WAS PRECEDED BY A STRING OF LENGTHY SPEECHES WHICH WERE CHARACTERIZED BY STRONG ATTACKS ON MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, CONDEMNATIONS OF SPAIN AND CHILE, CALLS FOR AID FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR ARAB OIL PRODUCERS AND FOR COUNTRIES SEEKING HIGHER PRICES FOR THEIR RAW MATERIALS. ILO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL BERTIL BOLIN MADE A SURPRISING AND FORTHRIGHT APPEAL TO THE DELEGATES TO ACCEPT A SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT ILO CRISIS AND TO BEGIN USING THE ILO FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED. THE CONGRESS BY NEAR UNANIMOUS STANDING VOTE APPROVED AN ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION TO IMMEDIATELY SEND A HIGH LEVEL MISSION TO CHILE TO SEEK RELEASE OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION PRISONERS FROM CHILEAN JAILS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ILO CRISIS: AN UNUSUALLY CANDID AND GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED SPEECH BY ILO DEPUTY-DIRECTOR GENERAL BOLIN HIGHLIGHTED THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM OF THE ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS. SPEAKING IN SOMBER TONES BOLIN, WITHOUT MAKING DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBLE U.S. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION HERE, MADE A DRAMATIC APPEAL TO DELEGATES TO ACCEPT A SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT CRISIS BECAUSE "DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE ILO CONGRESS ARE TO THE DEGREE OF 25 PERCENT, PERHAPS MORE, YOUR DECISIONS." BOLIN ALSO APPEALED TO THE DELEGATES TO "USE THE ILO FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU, AS TRADE UNIONISTS, HAD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ILO CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE. LET US LEAVE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOT THE ILO'S. LET US MOVE AHEAD WITH THE ILO'S PROPER JOBS."

2. ILO IS NOT THE UNITED NATIONS; LEADING UP TO HIS APPEAL, BOLIN REFERRED TO "CRITICS" WHO CONTEND THAT THE ILO HAS BECOME "POLITICAL." HE SAID, " THIS IS PARTLY TRUE, BUT

ISN'T IT A FACT THAT THE ILO ALWAYS WAS A POLITICAL BODY?
AFTER ALL, IS POLITICS NOT THE ART OF LIVING AS A
COMMUNITY, WITH A GOVERNMENT, LAWS, INSTITUTIONS, CUSTOMS,
AND THE INEVITABLE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS." HE CONTINUED BY
ALLUDING TO THE POLITICAL NATURE OF QUESTIONS LIKE THE 40
HOUR WEEK, THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
AND THE DEFENSE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT
THE CRITICS "ARE PARTLY RIGHT." HE SAID, "THE ILO HAS BEEN
USED FOR THE WRONG PURPOSES, AND IS LESS EFFECTIVE AS A
RESULT. WE ARE NOT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IT IS NO GOOD
PRETENDING THAT THE ILO CONFERENCE IS THE PROPER PLACE TO
TRY TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS BETWEEN NATIONS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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3. WIDESPREAD REACTION TO POSSIBLE US WITHDRAW:
SUBSEQUENTLY, BOLIN TOLD US THAT THE ILO HAS LEARNED THAT THE USG HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO GIVE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. HE SAID THAT HE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT THE NOTIFICATION WOULD HAVE ITS DESIRED IMPACT OF BRINGING ABOUT NEEDED REFORMS IN THE ILO, BUT THAT IT WAS A HIGH RISK ACTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO US WITHDRAWAL AND COULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ILO. THE POSSIBILITY OF US WITHDRAWAL IS BEING MUCH DISCUSSED IN AND AROUND THE CONGRESS WITH MOST DELEGATES WHO HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE BLAMING GEORGE MEANY, UNLIKE BOLIN, THEY REFUSE TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS. MEANY IS DESCRIBED AS A COLD WAR WARRIOR AND AN ENEMY OF DETENTE WHOSE STANDARD RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY IN INTERNATIONAL FORA IS TO WITHDRAW. THIS THEY CLAIM PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOVIETS AND THREATENS THE POSITION OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES PARTICULARLY IN THE WORKERS GROUP AT THE ILO.

4. THIRD WORLD RHETORIC MARKS INAUGURAL SESSION: MOST SPEAKERS AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND METERING OUT A LARGE MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. MACDONALD, KERSTEN, VETTER(GERMAN DGC), NARAYANAN(MALAYSIA TUC), KALTUNGO(NIGERIA ULC) AND MALAVE(VENEZUELA CTV) WERE UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF THE MNC'S AND CALLED FOR CONGRESS ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AIMED AT THEIR CONTROL. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED AND THE MORAL OBLIGATIONS OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS TO AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. NARAYANAN AND MALAVE ALSO DEFENDED THE RIGHTS OF RAW MATERIAL

PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO SEEK HIGHER PRICES FOR THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE LONG YEARS OF EXPLOITATION BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE "GOUGED" THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY CHARGING "IMMORALLY HIGH PRICES" FOR INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND MACHINERY. THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AND CHILE WERE ATTACKED BY ALL SPEAKERS WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY TO "DEFEAT THE FACIST FORCES OF OPPRESSION".

5. MALAVE CITES "CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION AND SHAMEFACED BRIBERY OXEMNC'S: INTRODUCED AS SPOKESMAN FOR "THE AMERICAS" THE USUALLY DOCILE MALAVE UNLEASHED A VIOLENT ATTACK ON MNCS AND CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA. HE CHARGED THAT THE MNCS AND IMPERIALIST GROUPS HAVE "SUCCEEDED IN CORRUPTING POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENTS THROUGH SHAMEFACED BRIBERY IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE POLITICAL REGIMES IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH DIRECTLY SERVE THEIR FINANCIAL INTERESTS. HE PRAISED THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA WHO HAVE NATIONALIZED MINERALS AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND ELICITED ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE WHEN HE MENTIONED "THE PERMANENT STRUGGLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO REGAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS CANAL TERRIRORY." REFERRING TO PETROLEUM MALAVE ATTACKED THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT PRESENT WORLD INFLATION IS DUE TO OIL PRICES. HE SAID THAT IT IS "WELL KNOWN THAT GALLOPING INFLATION WAS PROVOKED BY SPECULATION IN THE IMPORT PRICES IMPOSED ON US FOR MACHINERY AND SEMI-FINISHED RAW MATERIALS, IN EXHCANGE FOR LOW PRICES FOR WHAT WE PRODUCE AND EXPORT." NARAYANAN, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE ELECTED ICFTU PRESIDENT AT THE CONGRESS, HAD EARLIER TAKEN THE SAME TACK POINTING TO THE INJUSTICE OF BLAMING THE "POOR ARABS."

6. ICFTU MISSION TO CHILE: JUST PRIOR TO CLOSING THE INAUGURAL SESSION MACDONALD ASKED AND RECEIVED A NEAR UNANIMOUS VOTE OF APPROVAL FOR A SURPRISE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION TO SEND A SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ICFTU MISSION TO CHILE TO SEEK RELEASE OF JAILED TRADE UNIONISTS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE MISSION WHICH DEPARTED MEXICO FOR SANTIAGO IN THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 19, IS HEADED BY ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY JONES (TUC BRITAIN), MORRIS(CLC CANADA), MERCADO(CTC COLOMBIA), MIRKES (DGB GERMANY) AND RAMIREZ, SPANISH EXILE OF THE ICFTU HEADQUARTERS STAFF. BRANDIN

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